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DPE-0400-59

16 January 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director of Central Intelligence  
SUBJECT : Review of CIA Air Activities

1. This memorandum contains recommendations submitted for concurrence by the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence and approval by the Director of Central Intelligence. These recommendations appear in paragraph 4.

2. A review has been completed of all CIA headquarters divisions and staffs concerned with air activities. As a result of this review, a headquarters reorganization is proposed which will continue to provide an effective air operations capability with greater economy. It further proposes that this same set of standards be applied to CIA field air activities. The recommendations contained in paragraph 4, a. (1), below, pertaining only to CIA headquarters, are tentatively programmed for an effective date of 1 February 1959. If the recommendations contained in paragraphs 4, a. (2) and (3) are approved, final recommendations will be submitted by 1 April 1959.

3. The following conclusions are believed to be valid:

a. The air functions performed by the Air Division and FE Division of DD/P can be accomplished by approximately one half of present Washington authorization if this staff is combined with the present Development Projects Staff. The consolidated staff would be named the Development Projects Division under the DD/P. A system by which the Air Division staff activities would be accomplished under this arrangement is detailed in Annex A.

b. Subject to an on-the-spot investigation, a reduction of foreign air assets proposed in a recent Air Division study may be possible without establishment of a domestic air unit. Any reduction in overseas support capability must assume that less sensitive air support requirements could be accomplished by MATS or other intra-theater airlift. Chiefs of Stations should continue to provide administrative support to

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

- 2 -

air detachment commanders. No increase in DDP administrative support is contemplated. A minimum number of CIA organic aircraft and crews must remain in the respective theaters to maintain a clandestine overflight and contingency airlift capability.

c. Domestic airlift requirements can be met from within air assets currently available in the Washington area, or by arrangement with Headquarters, USAF.

d. CIA Headquarters, through the Development Projects Division should exercise command control over overseas air detachments. Area Divisions should levy overflight or special air support requirements through DDP. Chiefs of Stations should levy normal intra-theater airlift requirements directly upon the air detachment commanders for accomplishment. Overflight operations should be planned by the air detachment commander, concurred in by the Chief of Station, and the cognizant Area Division. Detailed mission plans should be approved at an appropriate Headquarters CIA level, and operational control exercised by the DDP. This concept is further set forth in Annex A.

e. The functions performed by the Aircraft Maintenance and Support Division (AMSD) of the Office of Logistics in support of Agency air activities can be accomplished by the present DDP Logistics Staff with the addition of 7 personnel from AMSD in the initial reorganization. This number may be reduced to approximately five when overseas responsibilities have finally been assigned. (See Annex B)

f. Although the above consolidates control of CIA air activities, the CHALICE project should continue as at present, with appropriate compartmentation and priorities.

#### 4. RECOMMENDATIONS:

##### a. It is recommended:

(1) That approval be given for the consolidation of the present Air Division of the DD/P, the Aircraft Maintenance and Support Division of the Office of Logistics, the air portion of the PA Division, and the Development Projects Staff of the Office of the Director, into one organization to be designated as the Development Projects Division, under the DD/P, such reorganization to take place by 1 February 1959.

SECRET

- 3 -

(2) That the DE/P be authorized to conduct a field survey to determine what CIA organic overseas air assets are required. It is expected that this survey can be completed and final recommendations made by 1 April 1959.

(1) That command and operational control of overseas air assets be exercised by the Chief, DPO, after the survey has been completed.

M. M. BISELL, JR.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

**Attachments:**

Annexes A through F.

**CONCURRENCE:**

The recommendations in  
paragraph 4 are approved.

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Deputy Director

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Director

Date:

Date:

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